

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of propagating ureteric bud cells in culture, the method comprising:

(a) providing a medium not elaborated with cells derived from metanephric mesenchyme (MM) and not containing detectable levels of pleiotrophin, wherein the ~~contacting the cells in vitro with a medium comprising~~ optionally comprises:

(i) fibroblast growth factor-1 (FGF1), or a functional equivalent thereof; and

(ii) glial derived neutrophic factor (GDNF), or a functional equivalent thereof; [[,]]

~~wherein the medium is not previously elaborated with cells derived from metanephric mesenchyme and does not contain detectable levels of pleiotrophin, and~~

(b) contacting the medium of (a) with exogenous pleiotrophin;

(c) culturing ureteric bud cells in vitro with the medium of (b) and in the presence of a biocompatible matrix, wherein the ~~contacting induces the uteric bud~~ cells to undergo branching morphogenesis to generate a population of cells comprising tubular branches;

(~~d~~ b) isolating cells comprising tubular branches; and

(~~e~~ e) culturing ~~contacting~~ the isolated cells in a biocompatible matrix with the medium of (~~b~~ a).

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 [[3]], wherein the culture medium further comprises a glial cell line derived neurotrophic factor (GDNF) or functional equivalent thereof.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 [[3]], wherein the culture medium further comprises FGF1 or a functional equivalent thereof.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 [[3]], wherein the biocompatible matrix comprises a material selected from the group consisting of a cotton, a collagen, a polyglycolic acid, a cat gut suture, a cellulose, a gelatin, a dextran, a polyamide, a polyester, a polystyrene, a polypropylene, a polyacrylate, a polyvinyl, a polycarbonate, a polytetrafluorethylene, a nitrocellulose compound, and a basement membrane preparation.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the material is treated to contain proteoglycans, Type I collagen, Type IV collagen, laminin, fibronectin, or combinations thereof.

8 - 67. (Canceled)